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## ***NEWS RELEASE:*** ***Northwest tribes gear up for energy deregulation***

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**PORTLAND, Ore.** — Northwest tribes have formed a partnership with the Bonneville Power Administration to get ready for energy deregulation.

The Economic Development Corporation of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI-EDC) wants to ensure that Northwest tribes have a solid foundation for making informed decisions about opportunities associated with energy deregulation. To help support its efforts, ATNI-EDC will receive \$200,000 from BPA, the Northwest's federal power marketing agency. BPA staff and its technical expertise will be available to the tribes to help support the assessment of economic opportunities that could result from energy deregulation.

"We feel strongly that energy deregulation may present opportunities for Northwest tribes," said Dave Tovey, president of ATNI's Economic Development Corporation. "We're going to work with BPA to get the information to the tribes so they can determine the best options for their communities."

ATNI-EDC announced today that it has hired Sonya Tetnowski as energy coordinator to work with the Northwest tribes and BPA. Tetnowski, a member of the Makah Tribe, has worked as Women's Business Ownership Coordinator for the Native American Business Network. As energy coordinator, she will be responsible for working with tribal representatives, local utilities and BPA to develop reservation energy profiles. She will also plan a series of educational workshops over the next year where the tribes will learn about the energy industry, energy transactions, public and private utilities operations and renewable resources.

"Northwest tribes will be making critical decisions with long-term implications during deregulation," said BPA Administrator Judi Johansen. "We feel it's important they have a solid information base to make the best decisions for their members and communities."

BPA is a federal power marketing agency responsible for selling the power from 29 federal dams and one non-federal nuclear plant in the Pacific Northwest. The agency has built one of the largest and most reliable transmission systems in the United States and serves the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. Its programs are funded by Northwest ratepayers.

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians has been serving the regional interests of over 50 member tribes in the Pacific Northwest for the past 40 years. In 1996, the affiliation created the Economic Development Corporation to provide regional support for economic development efforts in Indian country. The ATNI-Economic Development Corporation is headquartered in Linwood, Wash.

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